

CHARACTER OF WASHINGTON.

BY LORD BROUGHAM.

"How grateful the relief which the friend of mankind, the lover of virtue, experiences when, turning from the contemplation of such a character, [that of Napoleon], his eye rests upon the greatest man of our own or any age; the only one upon whom an epithet so thoughtlessly lavished by men, to foster the crimes of their worst enemies, may be innocently and justly bestowed! In Washington we truly behold a marvellous contrast to almost every one of the endowments and the vices which we have been contemplating; and which are so well fitted to excite a mingled admiration, and sorrow, and abhorrence. With not that brilliant genius which dazzles ordinary minds; with not even any remarkable quickness of apprehension, with knowledge less than almost all persons in the middle ranks, and many well educated of the humbler classes, this eminent person is presented to our observation clothed in attributes as modest, as unpretending, as little calculated to strike or astonish, as if he had passed unknown through some secluded region of private life. But he had a judgment sure and sound; a steadiness of mind which never suffered any passion, or even any feeling to ruffle its calm; a strength of understanding which worked rather than forced its way through all obstacles—removing or avoiding rather than overleaping them. If profound sagacity, unshaken steadiness of purpose, the entire subjugation of all the passions which carry havoc through ordinary minds, and oftentimes lay waste the fairest prospects of greatness—nay, the discipline of those feelings which are wont to lull or to seduce genius, and to mar, and to cloud over the aspect of virtue herself—joined with, or rather leading to the most absolute self denial, the most habitual and exclusive devotion to principle—if these things can constitute a great character, without either quickness of apprehension, resources of information; or inventive powers, or any brilliant quality that dazzle the vulgar—then surely Washington was the greatest man that ever lived in this world uninspired by Divine wisdom, and unsustained by supernatural virtue.

Nor could the human fancy create a combination of qualities, even to the very wants and defects of the subject more perfectly fitted for the senses in which it was his lot to bear the chief part, whether we regard the war he conducted, the political constitution over which he afterwards presided, or the tempestuous time through which he had finally to guide the bark himself had launched. In truth, his devotion to liberty, and his intimate persuasion that it can only be enjoyed under the republican scheme, constantly gained strength to the end of his truly glorious life; and his steady resolution to hold the balance even between contending extremes at home, as well as to repel any advance from abroad incompatible with perfect independence, was not more dictated by the natural justice of his disposition, and the habitual soundness of his views, than it sprang from a profound conviction that a Common wealth is most effectually served by the commanding prudence which checks all success, and guarantees it against the peril that chiefly besets popular governments.

His courage whether in battle or in council, was as perfect as might be expected from his pure and steady temper of soul. A perfect just man with a thoroughly firm resolution never to be misled by others, any more than to be by others overawed, never to be seduced or betrayed, or hurried away by his own weakness or self delusions; any more than by other men's arts; nor never to be disheartened by the most complicated difficulties, any more than to be spoiled on the giddy heights of fortune—such was this great man—great, preeminently great, whether we regard him sustaining alone the whole weight of the campaigns all but desperate, or gloriously terminating a just warfare by his resources and his courage—presiding over the jarring elements of his political council, alike deaf to the storms of all extremes or directing the formation of a new government for a great people, the first time that so vast an experiment had ever been tried by man—or finally retiring from the supreme power to which his virtue had raised him over the nation he had created, and whose destinies he had guided as long as his aid was required—returning with the veneration of all parties, of all nations, of all mankind, in order that the rights of men might be conserved, and that his example never might be appealed to by vulgar tyrants. This is the consummate glory of Washington; a triumphant warrior where the most sanguine had a right to despair; a successful ruler in all the difficulties of a course wholly untried; but a warrior, whose sword only left its sheath when the first law of our nature commanded it to be drawn; and a ruler who, having tasted of supreme powers, gently and unostentatiously desired that the cup might pass from him, nor would suffer more to wet his lips than the most solemn and sacred duty to his country and his God required!

To his latest breath did this great patriot maintain the noble character, of a captain the patron of peace, and a statesman the friend of justice. Dying, he bequeathed to his heirs the sword which he had worn in the war of liberty, and charged them "never to take it from the scabbard but in self-defence, or in defence of their country and her freedom; and commanding them that when it should thus be drawn, they should never sheath it nor ever give it up, but prefer filling with it in their hands to the relinquishment thereof!" words, the majesty and simple eloquence of which are not surpassed in the oratory of Athens and Rome!

The Senate of Georgia has rejected a resolution recommending an amendment to the Constitution to limit the term of service of the President. That is right. Touch not our sacred charter.

THE DEATH BED.

"The tongues of dying men
Enforce attention like deep harmony."
[Shakspeare.]

It is a sad but instructive duty to linger round the couches of the dying and the dead. There we watch a pang of that sorrow which all are doomed to feel; and there remember that all the hopes and fears of life, must at last be crowded into one short hour! Must this eye glance feebly and be veiled in death's noiseless slumbers; must this warm blood seek the heart for the last time, and must this eloquent glow on my cheek fade away in the dimness of the tomb? And what shall I receive as a recompense for death? Are there no pleasant landscapes or green islands upon which to recline the spirit fainting on Jordan's dark billows? Oh! shall the worm, the death sheet and the senseless earth alone meet me in the life to come? The tomb may not. Six thousand years have borne witness to its silence. But list, oh! man "to that divinity which stirs within thee!" Does it tell thee nothing of joys to come? Does it reveal no gleamings of a river of life—no echo of angelic song—no harpings of redeemed spirits in untroubled realms? Or rather does it not tell thee of golden landscapes elevated and expansive; of lovely temples and burning spirits—of unfading diamonds, ancient as eternity—and of a pleasant realm, and where no sorrows may come over us like the coldness of Alpine streams? If it does not, tremble—for more terrible than the cold pulseless vapors of the tomb be thy destiny.

FEMALE PIETY.

The gem of all others which enriches the coronet of a lady's character is unaffected piety. Nature may lavish much on her person; the enchantment of her countenance—the grace of her mien, or the strength of her intellect, yet her loveliness is uncrowned, till piety throws around the whole the sweetness and power of her charms. She then becomes unearthly in desires and associations. The spell which bound her affections to the things below is broken, and she mounts on the silent wings of her fancy and hope to the habitation of God, where it is her delight to hold communion with the spirits that have been ransomed from the thralldom of earth and wreathed with a garland of glory.

Her beauty may throw a magical charm over many princes, and conquerors may bow with admiration at the shrine of her love—the sons of science may emblaze her memory in the pages of history—yet her piety must be her ornament, her pearl. Her name must be written in the "Book of Life," that when the mountains fade away, and every memento of earthly greatness is lost in the general wreck of nature, it may remain and swell the list of that mighty throng, which have been clothed with the mantle of righteousness, and their voice attuned to the melody of Heaven.

With such a treasure every lofty gratification on earth may be purchased, friendship will be doubly sweet, pain and sorrow shall lose the sting, and the character will possess a price far "above riches," life will be but a pleasant visit to earth, and death the entrance upon a joyful and perpetual home. And when the notes of the last trump shall be heard, and sleeping millions awake to judgment, its possessor shall be presented "faultless before the throne of God, with exceeding joy, and a crown of glory that shall never wear away."

Such is piety. Like a tender flower, planted in the fertile soil of woman's heart, it grows expanding its foliage and imparting its fragrance to all around, till it is set to bloom in perpetual vigor and unfading beauty in the paradise of God.

Follow this star, it will light you through every labyrinth of life—gild the gloom that will gather around you in a dying hour, and bring you safely over the tempestuous Jordan of death into the haven of promised and settled rest.

FROM THE SOUTHRON.

REDUCTION OF SALARIES.

We present below, (to the exclusion of some of our lucubrations) the report of Mr. Dobyns, upon the subject of the reduction of the salaries of public officers. Short and unpretending as this report is, there perhaps, never was one which so plainly exhibited the true difference between the democracy of the Whigs and the pretended democracy of the locofocos. For years and years the demagogues of the latter have gone through the country preaching up a reduction of salaries of officers, both State and Federal, and teaching the people to believe that those who advocate the payment of high salaries, are aristocrats, desiring to batten on the substance of the people, and that they "the friends of the poor man," as they are wont facetiously to style themselves, were the men who, if in power, would deliver the land from this curse sought to be imposed on them by evil and designing men. It needs but a brief glance at the able and luminous views presented by Mr. Dobyns, to satisfy any one that the consequences of the promulgation of the doctrines advanced by the demagogues, must be to exclude every poor man from office, and to fill them exclusively with the rich, whom these pretended patriots affected to consider as the natural enemy of all upon whom the blessings of fortune have been less lavishly showered than upon themselves.

Is a measure which is to be attended with such results a branch of the true democratic creed, which teaches that all men are equal, not only in rights, but in privileges, and that the humblest member of the community may aspire to the highest office of the land, no matter how poor his condition, provided only, that he is possessed of the honesty and capacity, which are more precious than all gold? Is there a poor man in this country, who would wish to deprive himself or his son of the privilege of holding office as effectually as if they were precluded by a constitutional provision? Is there any one that wishes to revive that ar-

ti-democratic provision of the constitution which prescribes a property qualification for office, and renders it necessary for every one to own a certain number of acres of land, before he can hold office? If there are such, let them support the doctrine of reducing the salaries of officers to the standard advocated by the demagogues and they will effectually do so, for the result of their pretended democracy can be nothing less.

"The Committee to whom was referred so much of the Governor's Message as relates to the reduction of the salaries of the public officers, beg leave to submit the following REPORT.

Upon a careful examination of the amount of salary paid the different officers of this State, your Committee have come to the conclusion that it is unwise and inexpedient to reduce indiscriminately the salaries of all the officers of this State. That there are some, which without detriment to the public interest might be reduced, and others, in the good administration of which the public are too deeply interested to commit them to the hands of such as might be employed under a diminished salary.

There is no one subject in which the people are so deeply interested as that of having all the various offices of government filled by responsible and efficient men. Men of character and competency to discharge the duties of their offices, can only be employed when the emoluments are sufficient to pay their ordinary expenses.

A free people can never be prosperous and happy under a weak and imbecile administration of their Government. The efficiency and stability of all governments is more or less dependent on the able and energetic manner in which all the various officers discharge their several duties.

Men who are poor, however competent, can never accept office when their emoluments are insufficient to pay the ordinary expenses attending the same; and, to reduce indiscriminately, all the salaries of the various officers of this State, would be equivalent to saying that none should accept office but those who are able to support themselves without compensation.

In a republican government like ours, it is absolutely necessary for the purpose of carrying out the great republican principles upon which our institutions are based, that offices and emoluments be so regulated as to be equally attainable by the poor as well as the rich. To effect which it is necessary that such emoluments be attached to each office as to pay at least the ordinary expenses of him who holds it. Your Committee are of opinion the salary of Governor, Chancellor, and of the Judges of the High Court of Errors and Appeals should not be reduced, but have instructed me to report the following bill regulating and reducing the salaries of other officers of this State.

[The reductions contemplated by the Bill are but few. The principal is that of reducing the salaries of Circuit Judges to \$2,000.]

THE PIONEER.



CARROLLTON, JANUARY 26, 1841.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

We present to our readers this week a document purporting to emanate from the "Chosen Executive of the State," as his annual Message to the two Houses of the State Legislature—and for the credit of the State and the honor of that high functionary, we would fain hope that it is a counterfeit. We profess to have seen many Gubernatorial Messages and other State papers, some of which may have excited some surprise—but of all the documents that were ever cast forth to do their office, and sink into oblivion, this is the most strange, repulsive and ridiculous. One of its most prominent features is an egotism so palpable and exacting as to claim your attention in almost every paragraph—an anxious desire is manifested throughout, to impress you with a proper sense of the importance of Alexander G. McNutt. It is truly an extraordinary production from an unnaturally great man.—At the very commencement he says, "you have assembled in pursuance of your own adjournment, &c." that is without having called in my assistance or consulted my pleasure. Again he says, "they clothed the Executive with the power of convening the Legislature in cases of emergency," therefore my discretion is the sole standard and I am the sole Judge of the propriety of adjourning sessions. It is my high prerogative to beggar and disgrace the State, and as it is likely to be a profitable business I "won't" passively tolerate any interference with my rights. Again—"the four extra sessions have cost the State about two hundred thousand dollars, and have bankrupted the State Treasury. A careful examination of all the acts of the special sessions, will demonstrate that they have been productive of little good and much evil." 'Tis passing strange he did not find it out before.

In January 1839, the Legislature held an adjourned session, and Governor McNutt sent in to them a Message of 27 pages, in which

he makes no mention of adjourned sessions—not he. The session of 1839 was composed of members of the same political school with himself—his political friends—and therefore it was right and proper that there should be adjourned sessions—now, however the tables are turned—there is a majority against him and it is wrong—it is very wrong for the whigs to meet at an adjourned session. Thus in his morbid anxiety to forestall public opinion and fix unmerited odium in advance, upon a Whig Legislature, he gives his loco loco friends a hard rap over the knuckles, by thus abruptly referring to their adjourned sessions, and asserting that an examination will show that special sessions have been "productive of little good and much mischief;" yet he seems willing to sacrifice his quondam friends, so he can but include the Whigs with them. Again he says, "since your adjournment one fifth of the Senators and one third of the Representatives have vacated their seats"—"under such circumstances improvident legislation may well be apprehended."

How unfortunate! Really, 'tis too bad—and all of this is to happen because "them Whigs" presumed to fill the vacant places in the council of the Sachems. The Chief of the *magi* does not seem to brook this unseasonable interruption to his darling measures.—We can readily fancy we see him standing on the head of a barrel, inspired by the "osy God" with a quart bottle for his wand, exclaiming to the intrusive Whigs in the language of the weird Pythoness of old, but with far more solemnity and earnestness, "*Procul! O, procul este profani!*" But enough of this for the present. We have not room to continue our review of this dignified State paper this week. In our next we will take up and consider that portion of this Message, that alludes to the Union Bank and the State Bonds.

We commend to the perusal of our readers, the subjoined remarks of the Editors of the N. O. Bulletin. It is true that the document bearing the signature of A. G. McNutt, as his annual Message to the Legislature, is emphatically demoralizing and infamous. With the recklessness of a political partizan, and the morbid bitterness of a disappointed aspirant, he has, in this same Message stabbed at the reputation of the State over which he has the honor to preside, and appealed to the worst principles of our nature for the purpose of elevating himself and his peculiar party, upon the ruins of his country's credit and public faith. With Shakspeare we say, "Let no such man be trusted."

"SALE OF THE MISS. STATE BONDS."

"The most thorough Loco-foco document which we have seen for some time, is the last message of the Governor of Mississippi.—Under the pretext of curtailing State expenses, the independence of the judiciary is assailed, by recommending the reduction of the salaries of the judges to a mere pittance not competent to their maintenance. Under the same disguise an attack is made on the credit and public faith of the State. The Governor enters into a long argument to show that the sale of five million of Mississippi State Bonds, in 1838, was illegal, and that the State ought not to pay them. It is alleged that the actual purchasers of the bonds was the Bank of the United States, and that this institution is prohibited from dealing in State stocks. The following grounds are assigned as reasons why the sale should have no obligatory force upon the State:—1st. The bank is prohibited by its charter from purchasing such stocks, either directly or indirectly. 2d. It was fraudulent on the part of that Bank, inasmuch as the contract was made in the name of an individual, when in fact it was for the benefit of the Bank, and payment was made with its funds. 3rd. The sale was illegal, inasmuch as the bonds were sold on a credit. 4th. Interest to the amount of about one hundred and seventy thousand dollars having accrued on those bonds before the purchase money was stipulated to be all paid, the bonds were in fact sold at less than their par value, in direct violation of the charter of the Bank. For these reasons it is strongly urged upon the Legislature to repudiate the sale of the bonds as an unconstitutional pledge of the faith of the State. Long before this, the bonds are passed probably into the hands of third parties, against whom the State of Mississippi would hardly find the pleas available which the Governor sets forth, even if they had any existence, which is very much to be doubted. The hardship of the State being compelled to pay the debt thus contracted, is depicted in a pathetic manner in the message, and the people are stirred up to opposition by all the excitement and flourish of eloquent appeals to the passions. The memory of former days is appealed to. "Our ancestors, (says the Governor,) after a struggle of eight years continuance, conquered their independence of Great Britain: the freemen of Mississippi are not so degenerate as to submit to heavy taxation to pay a claim not contracted in accordance with their supreme law." It is to be hoped, however, that such counsels

will not prevail in the Legislature of our neighbor. The public sentiment of the State is not fairly expressed by the message of the Governor, who was elected some time previous to the great change which recently occurred in the politics of Mississippi. The ultra Loco-foco doctrines promulgated in that document will find no favor among the mass of the people, and it is only to be regretted that they may make an impression abroad derogatory to the character of the State."



HON. D. O. SHATTUCK.

It is with much pleasure we present to our readers the annexed extra from the Whig Republican, published at Lexington, containing the letter of Judge Shattuck. It is frank and manly, just as we expected and all that his friends could desire. There was a rumor at Jackson and elsewhere that the Judge had positively and pre-emptorily declined a nomination by the Convention. His friends feeling much anxiety on the subject, wrote to him to know if he had authorized such an intimation, and we here have his answer. If we are not greatly mistaken in the manifestations of public opinion throughout North Mississippi, DAVID O. SHATTUCK will be the next Governor of Mississippi. For ourselves we should hail such an event as auspicious of better times, and as the harbinger of a new era in the history of our State.

We do not wish to forestall public opinion, or anticipate the result of the deliberations of the Convention, but we must and will say, that we are satisfied in our own mind, that the nomination of Judge Shattuck by said Convention would be the most acceptable to the great body of the Whig party that could be made, and that as he is less obnoxious, so he would be a more available candidate before the PEOPLE, than any we have heard spoken of. We are not pressing our merely individual preference. We wrote ADVISEDLY when we penned the above.

From the Whig Republican—Extra.

The following letter is from the Hon. D. O. SHATTUCK; to our fellow-townsmen Dr. I. S. Mitchell. We hasten to lay it before the public as it will fully satisfy the friends of Judge Shattuck, and his political friends, that a candidate for the office of Governor:

CARROLLTON, Jan. 21, 1841.

Dr. I. S. Mitchell—Dear Sir: Your favor of the 20th instant, is before me, and I cannot say that I feel indifferent to a communication of so flattering a character.

In answer thereto, I have to say, that I have never desired an office of so high a character as that of Governor, and would much prefer remaining as I am, but if my fellow-citizens believe my services would be more important in another sphere—my ideas of a public servant forbid me saying nay.

I therefore say to you, as I have repeatedly said to others, that I am in the hands of my friends, to use my name as they may deem most conducive to the public good. If they nominate me for that high Office, I will use my best exertions to succeed in the election, and if elected, to perform the duties connected therewith. If another should be preferred by the Convention, my friends may be assured I shall take as much pleasure in sustaining the nomination, as though my own name was flying at the mast head of the Whig journals.

With sentiments of sincere regard,

I remain very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

D. O. SHATTUCK.

The trial of Mrs. Kinney at Boston is at length over, the verdict of the jury being not guilty. Several of the medical faculty testified that arsenic is to be found in many of the quack and patent medicines of the day. On hearing the verdict, the immense crowd cheered enthusiastically.

Bulwer's new play "Money," has just been published in the New World. It is making some noise—send it on brother Editors—let's see it!

MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM GEORGIA.—On the 4th inst., the election of a Member of Congress from Georgia took place. Majr. H. Holt, Jr., was the Whig candidate. The vote stood: for Holt 638, Watson 302.

ILLINOIS.—Samuel McRoberts, a Loco loco was on the 16th ult. elected by the Illinois Legislature, a member of the U. States Senate for six years, from the 4th of March next.—The vote was, for McRoberts 77 and for Cyrus Edwards (Whig) 50.

MARYLAND.—The Hon. John Leeds Kerr, [whig] has been elected a member of the U. States Senate from Maryland, in the place of Dr. Spence, deceased.

VIRGINIA.—Francis Mallory has been elected Member of Congress from Virginia, in place of Hon. Joel Holleman, [V. B.] resigned.